THE ETERNALS™

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

THE *END* OF THE ETERNALS --AND *EARTH* AS WELL?! *ALL ANSWERS* LIE WITHIN-- THE PYRAMID!

WE'RE *TOO LATE,* IKARUS!

WHAT YOUR MAD COUSIN, *DRUIG* HAS UNLEASHED. *NO LIVING BEING CAN STOP!*

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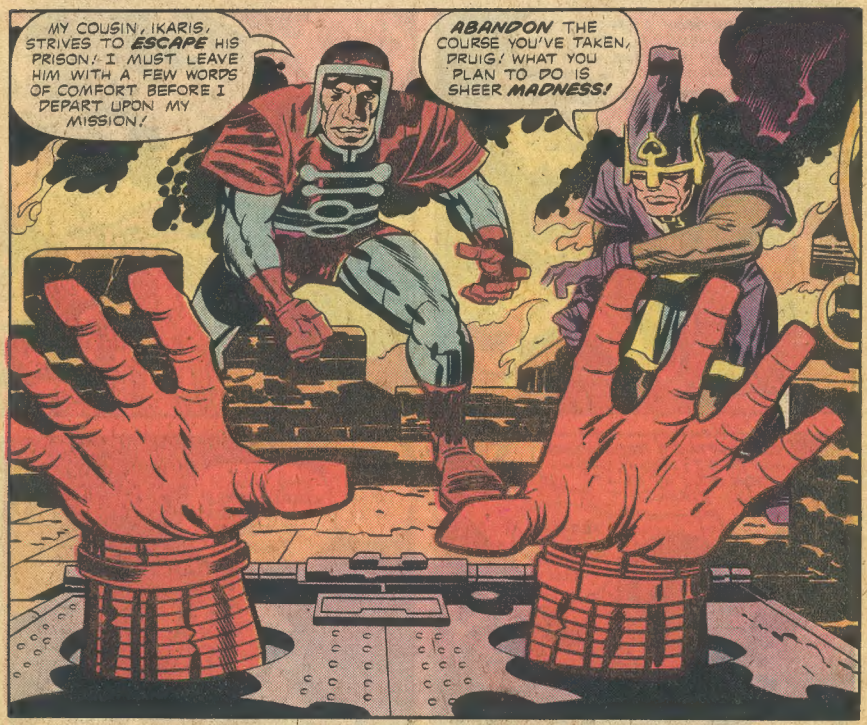
Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • INKER/LETTERER: **MIKE ROYER** • SUPER COLORIST: **GLYNIS WEIN** • INTELLECTUALIST: **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

AMONG THE POLAR ETERNALS THERE IS ONE WHO WOULD ***DARE*** TO DESTROY A SPACE GOD !! BUT, THERE IS ANOTHER WHO IS ***DETERMINED*** TO STOP HIM! THEY WILL ***MEET!*** ... THEY WILL ***CLASH!*** ... THEY WILL DECIDE THE ***FATE*** OF EARTH ... IN --

The PYRAMID



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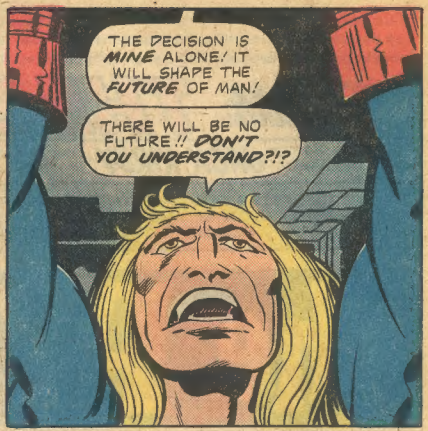
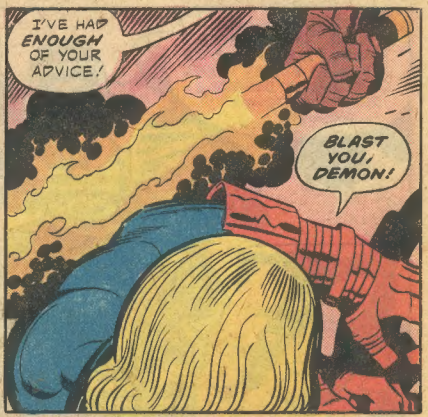
HEED HIS WORDS, YOU RECKLESS FOOL! YOUR ACTION COULD TRIGGER A COSMIC HOLOCAUST!!
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND, NOBLE IKARIS!

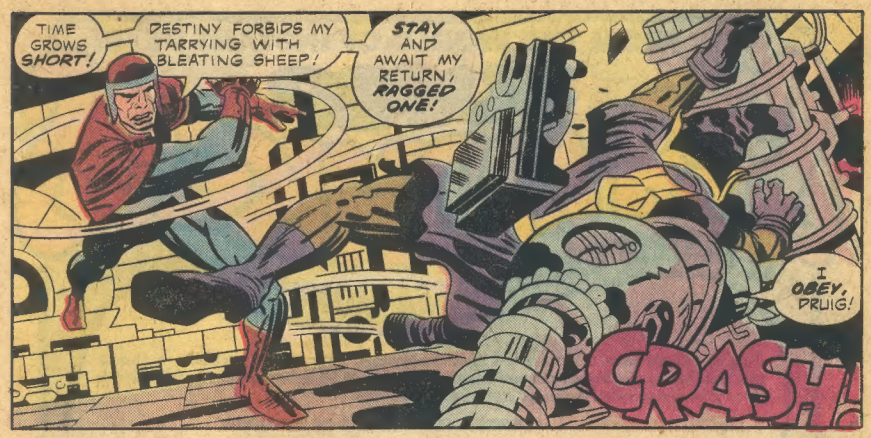

THE DECISION IS MINE ALONE! IT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MAN!
THERE WILL BE NO FUTURE!! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!?

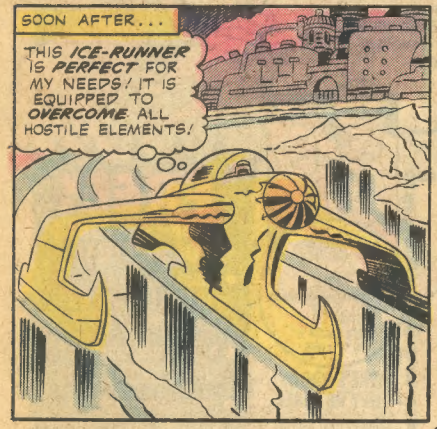
IF YOU DESTROY A SPACE GOD HIS COMPANIONS WILL SHATTER THIS PLANET AND ALL WHO LIVE UPON IT!
HUMANITY WILL PERISH, DRUIG!!


I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR ADVICE!
BLAST YOU, DEMON!

OUR CAPTIVE'S REGAINING HIS SPIRIT, SIGMAR! HOW SOON WILL HE BE AT FULL STRENGTH?
PERHAPS IN TIME TO STOP YOU!!

HE'LL NOT BE AS WEAK AS I!
HE WILL CHALLENGE YOUR POWER OF SOLAR FLAME!
CAUTION, WIZARD, LEST I REDUCE YOU TO A CINDER!





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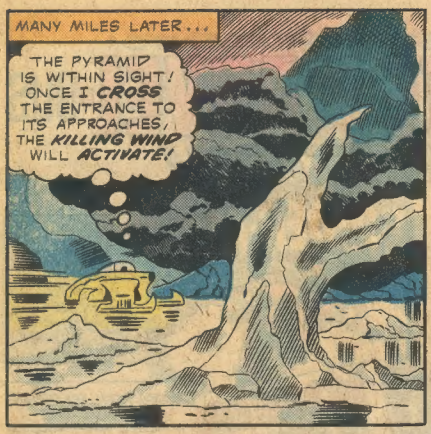
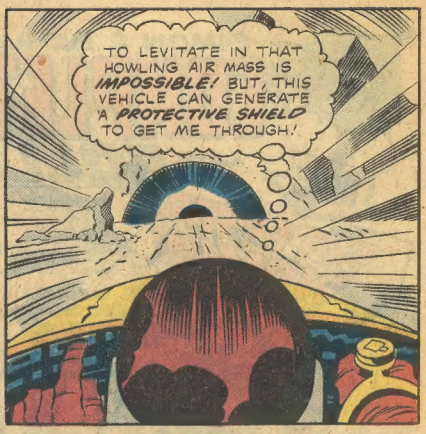
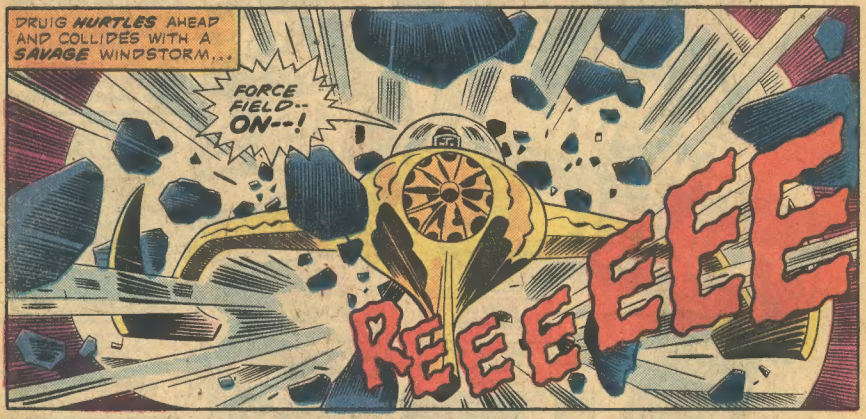
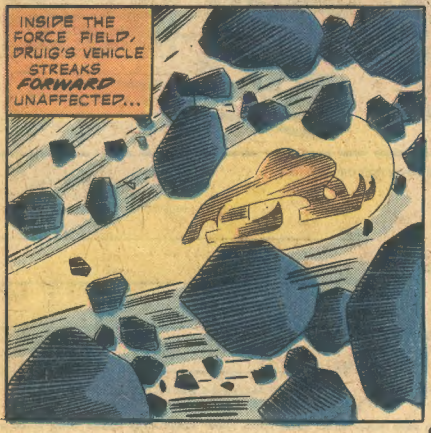
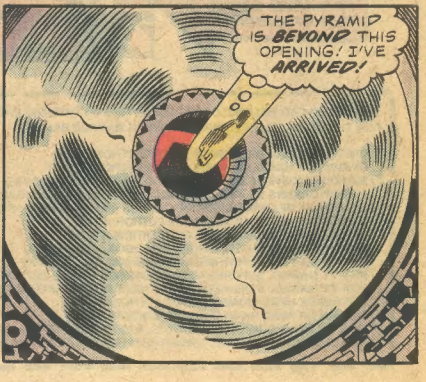

MANY MILES LATER...
THE PYRAMID IS WITHIN SIGHT! ONCE I CROSS THE ENTRANCE TO ITS APPROACHES, THE KILLING WIND WILL ACTIVATE!


TO LEVITATE IN THAT HOWLING AIR MASS IS IMPOSSIBLE! BUT, THIS VEHICLE CAN GENERATE A PROTECTIVE SHIELD TO GET ME THROUGH!


DRUIG HURTLES AHEAD AND COLLIDES WITH A SAVAGE WINDSTORM...
FORCE FIELD-- ON--!
REEEEEE


INSIDE THE FORCE FIELD, DRUIG'S VEHICLE STREAKS FORWARD UNAFFECTED...


HE FINALLY REACHES THE SOURCE OF THE WINDS: A GIANT SPINNING MECHANISM...
THE PYRAMID IS BEYOND THIS OPENING! I'VE ARRIVED!

THE BRIDGE OF TERROR IS *CROSSED!* IN THAT PYRAMID BELOW, THE CELESTIAL WEAPON LIES WAITING FOR THE STRONG ARM OF A *CONQUEROR!!*

DRUIG LANDS HIS VEHICLE IN THE GREAT CHAMBER AND *RACES* TO THE BASE OF THE PYRAMID...

THE *ENTIRE* WALL IS LINED WITH DOORS! BEHIND ONE OF THEM IS THE *ONLY* PRIZE WORTH TAKING FROM THIS MAUSOLEUM!

WHICH IS THE DOOR TO *OPEN?*

EACH DOOR BEARS A SYMBOL OF DESIGNATION *UNKNOWN* TO ME!

BLAST SIGMAR AND HIS TREACHEROUS WAYS! HE *DELIBERATELY* WITHHELD HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE CORRECT SYMBOL!

BUT I SHALL FIND IT! *I SHALL FIND IT!!*

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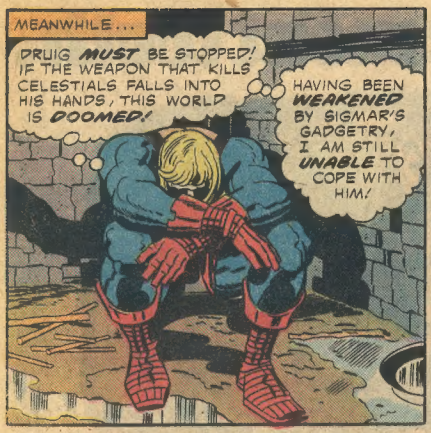
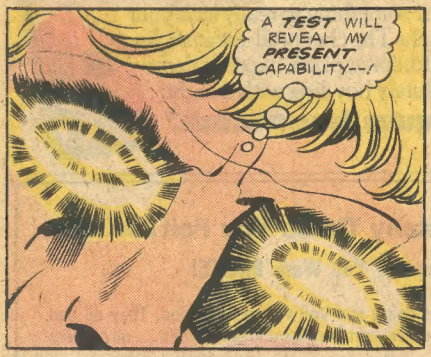
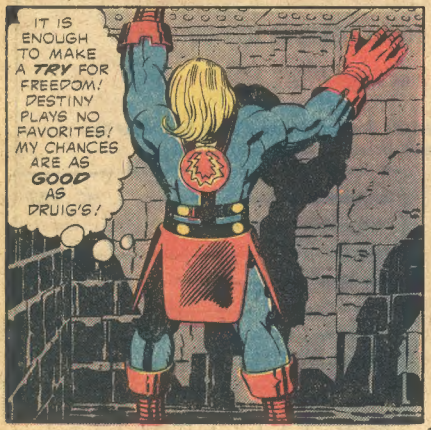
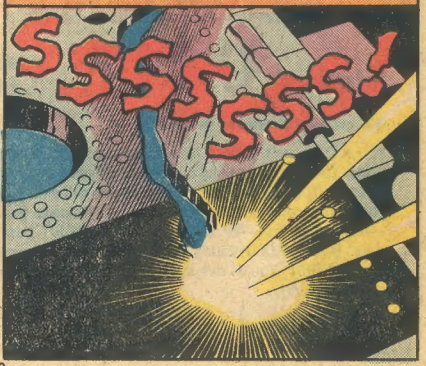


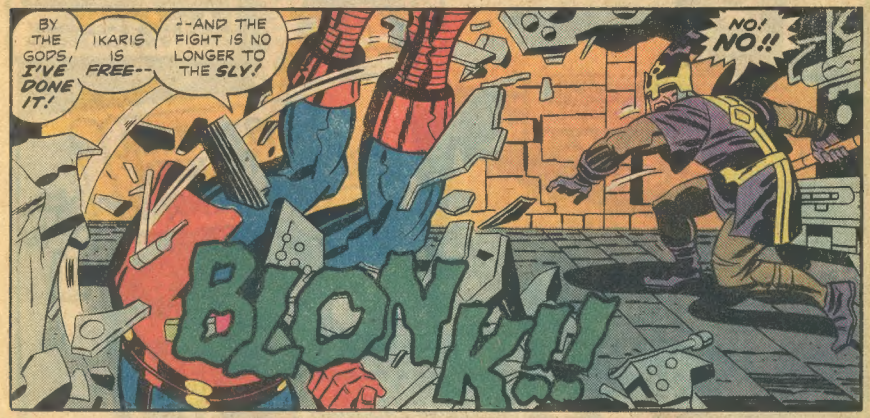
THE EYES OF IKARIS SUDDENLY GLOW AND SPUTTER WITH WHITE-HOT SPARKS...

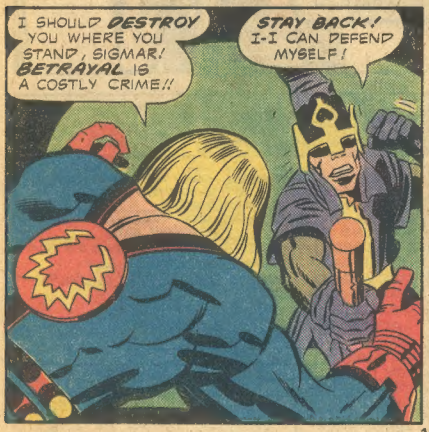


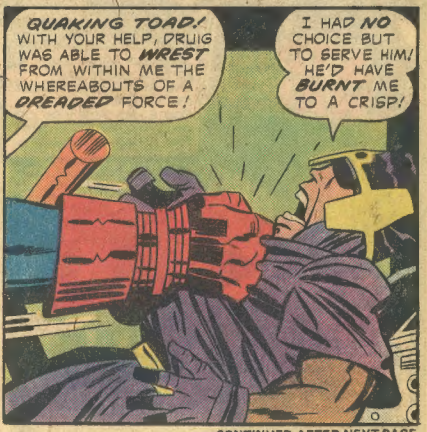


ONCE MORE THE EYE-BEAMS BLAZE. SLOWLY AND STEADILY THEY BURN A NARROW GAP IN THE METAL ROOF ABOVE IKARIS...









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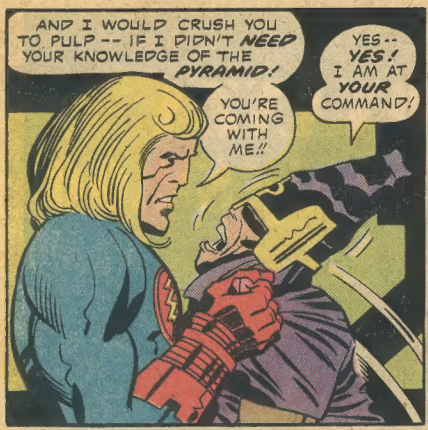
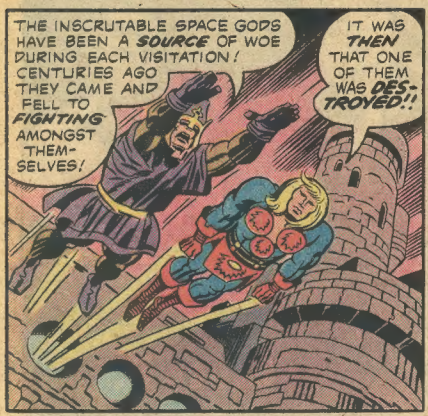
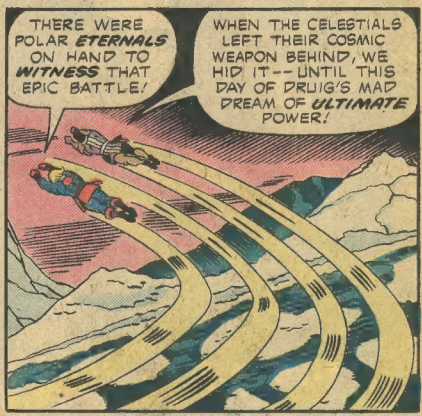
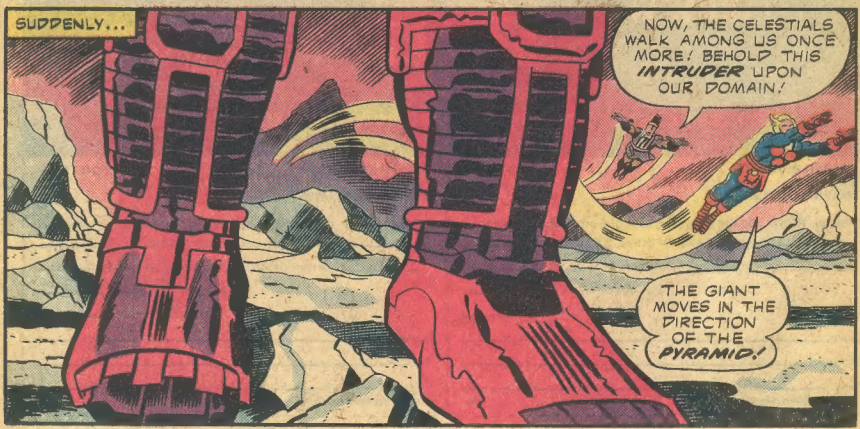

AND I WOULD CRUSH YOU TO PULP -- IF I DIDN'T NEED YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE PYRAMID!
YES -- YES! I AM AT YOUR COMMAND!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!!

BELIEVE ME, IKARIS, I AM AS EAGER TO STOP DRUIG AS YOU ARE! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN REACH HIM IN TIME!
PRAY THAT WE DO, WIZARD, OR ALL IS LOST!
NOW -- LEVITATE!!


THE INSCRUTABLE SPACE GODS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF WOE DURING EACH VISITATION! CENTURIES AGO THEY CAME AND FELL TO FIGHTING AMONGST THEMSELVES!
IT WAS THEN THAT ONE OF THEM WAS DESTROYED!!


THERE WERE POLAR ETERNALS ON HAND TO WITNESS THAT EPIC BATTLE!
WHEN THE CELESTIALS LEFT THEIR COSMIC WEAPON BEHIND, WE HID IT -- UNTIL THIS DAY OF DRUIG'S MAD DREAM OF ULTIMATE POWER!


SUDDENLY...
NOW, THE CELESTIALS WALK AMONG US ONCE MORE! BEHOLD THIS INTRUDER UPON OUR DOMAIN!
THE GIANT MOVES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PYRAMID!

VALKIN PRESERVE US!

IF DRUIG *FINDS* THAT WEAPON...

HE MAY WELL *USE* IT UPON THIS SILENT BEHEMOTH --AND BRING US TO WAR WITH FORCES WHICH HAVE *COWERED* GALAXIES!

FASTER, WIZARD-- *FASTER!*

DRIVEN BY *DESPERATION,* THE TWO ETERNALS *INCREASE* THEIR FLIGHT SPEED UNTIL...

LEVITATE NO *FURTHER,* IKARIS! BEYOND THIS POINT THE *KILLING WINDS* BEGIN! WE WOULD BE *TORN* TO SHREDS!

THEN YOU *MUST* KNOW OF AN *ALTERNATE ROUTE* TO THE PYRAMID!

IT IS THE ONLY FACT I *KEPT* FROM DRUIG!

FOLLOW ME!

THE *PASSAGE* LIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS *PIT!*

THOUGH ETERNALS *CANNOT* DIE, THEY CAN BE *SEVERELY* TWISTED OUT OF SHAPE!

REMEMBER THAT... IF *TREACHERY* IS IN YOUR THOUGHTS!

IKARIS IS LED INTO THE INKY DARKNESS BELOW...

YOU DID *WELL* TO CLEAVE TO THE TRUTH, SIGMAR! THE PASSAGE *EXISTS!*

IT RUNS BENEATH THE WIND CORRIDOR ABOVE US! WHEN WE EMERGE, IT WILL BE *IN* THE PYRAMID CHAMBER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PYRAMID...

THIS IS THE DOOR I SEEK!

SSSSSS!

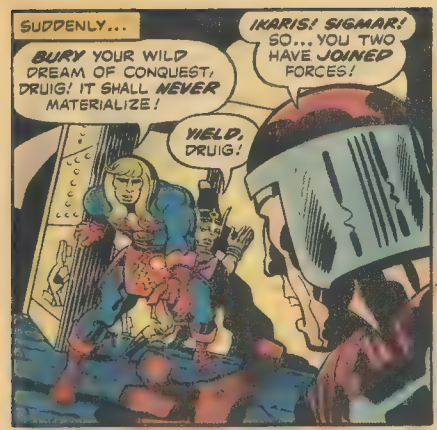
IT BEARS THE SYMBOL WORN BY *IKARIS* HIMSELF! AND WHO BUT THE KEEPER OF THE *SECRET* WOULD LIVE WITH ITS SIGN?!

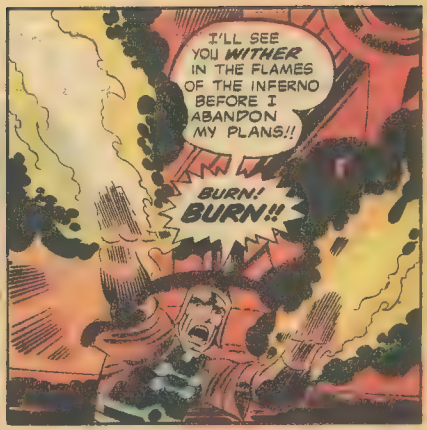
I SEE IT!

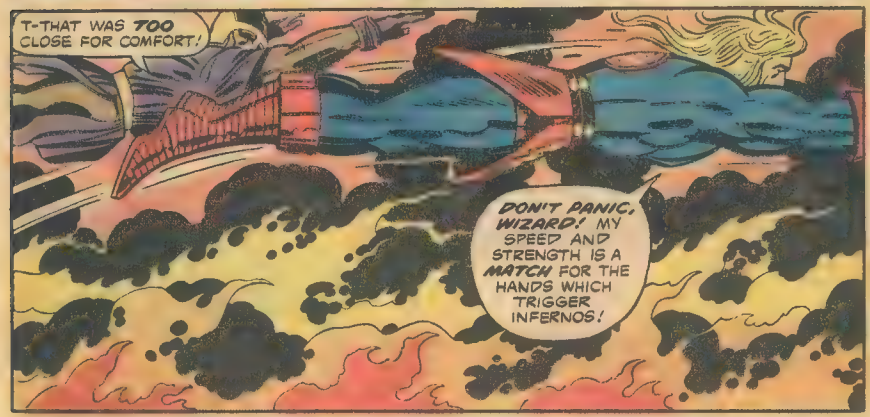
THE WEAPON IS HERE IN THIS ROOM!

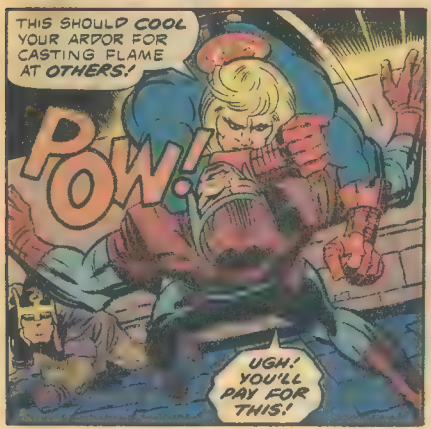
MY FINGERS NEED ONLY TO REACH OUT AND GRASP UNDREAMED OF POWER!

IT IS A PISTOL MADE FOR A *GIANT'S* HAND! BUT--I CAN *HARNESS* IT TO FIT MY *OWN!*









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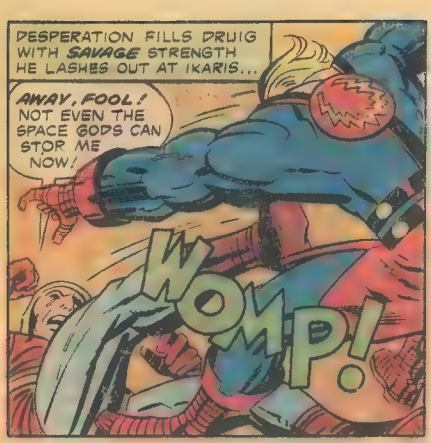
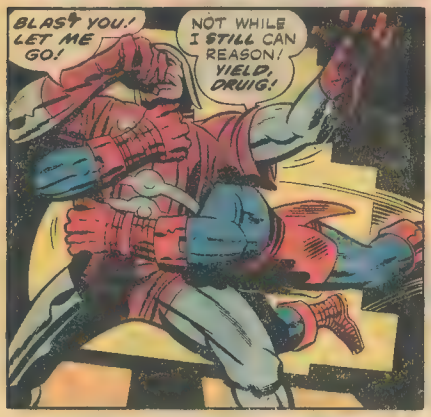
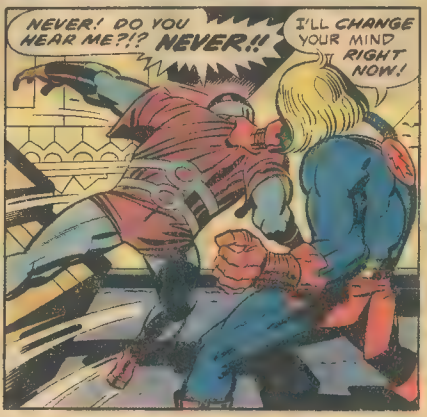
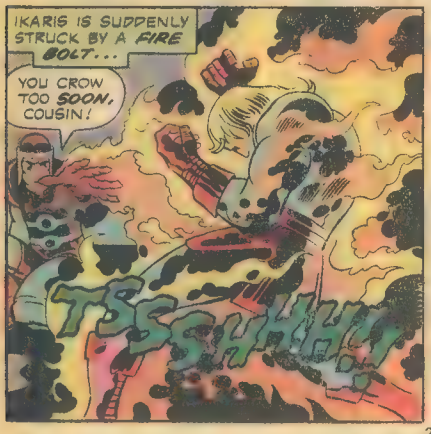
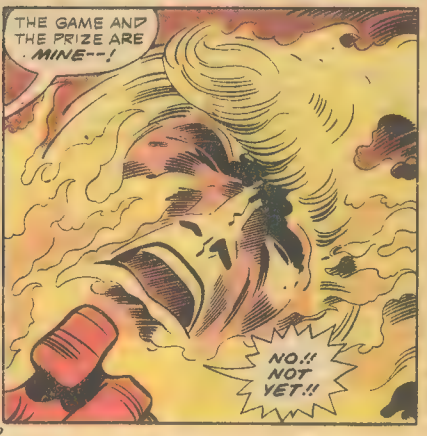

DESPERATION FILLS DRUIG WITH SAVAGE STRENGTH HE LASHES OUT AT IKARIS...
AWAY, FOOL! NOT EVEN THE SPACE GODS CAN STOP ME NOW!
WOMP!

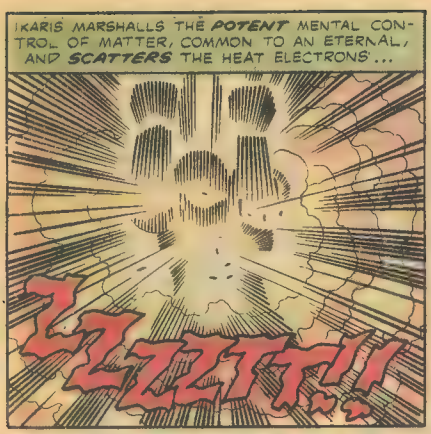
THAT CELESTIAL WEAPON WAITS FOR A HAND AND HEART WITH THE WILL TO SWEEP THIS PLANET CLEAR OF ALL OPPOSITION!
AND I VOW THAT THE DEMONS OF THE PITS SHALL HAVE YOU FIRST!

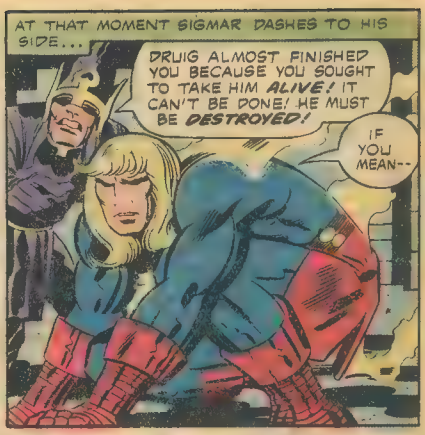

BLAST YOU! LET ME GO!
NOT WHILE I STILL CAN REASON! YIELD, DRUIG!

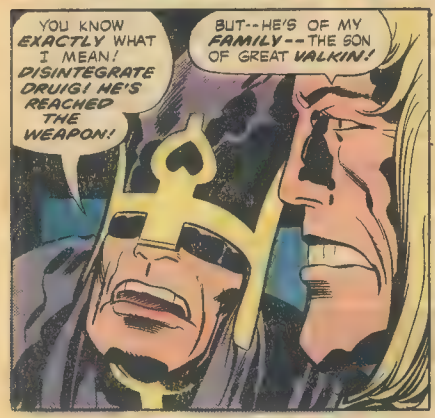

NEVER! DO YOU HEAR ME?!? NEVER!!
I'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW!

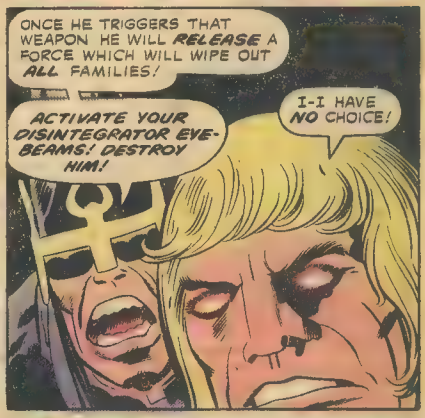

IKARIS IS SUDDENLY STRUCK BY A FIRE BOLT...
YOU CROW TOO SOON, COUSIN!
TSSHHHH!!

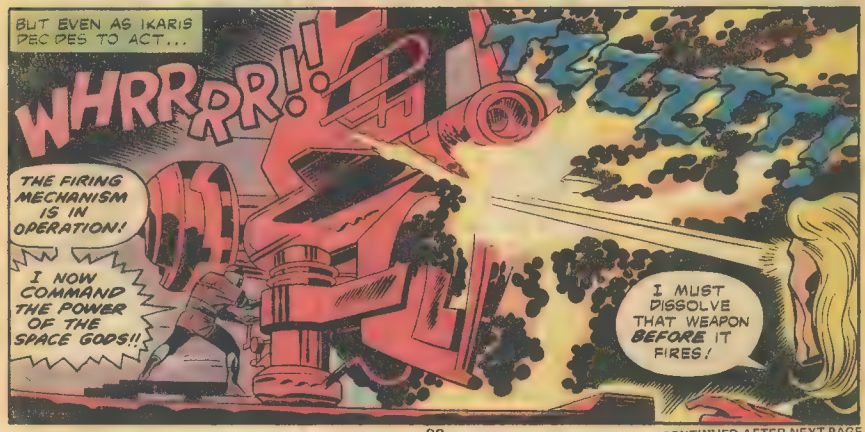

THE GAME AND THE PRIZE ARE MINE--!
NO!! NOT YET!!











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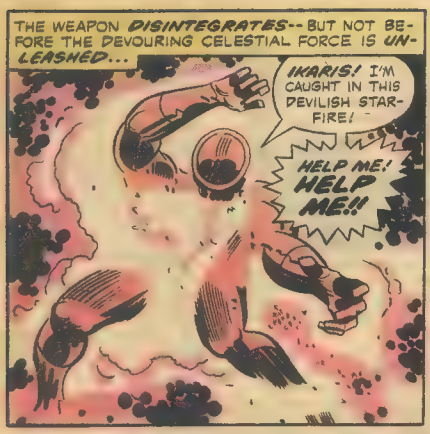
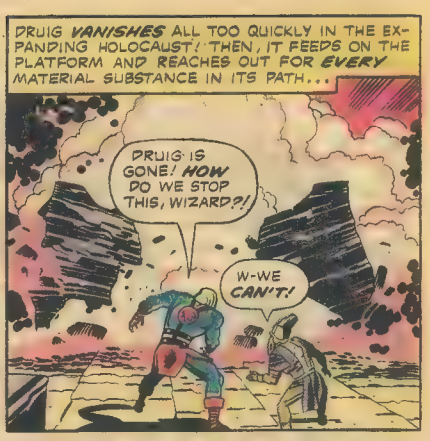
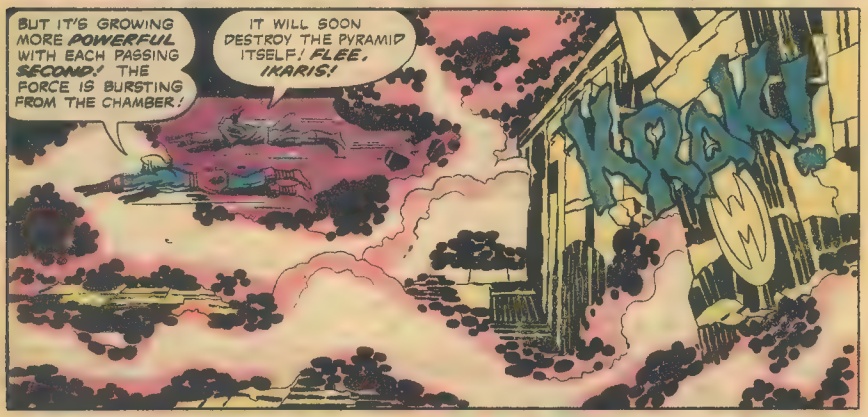
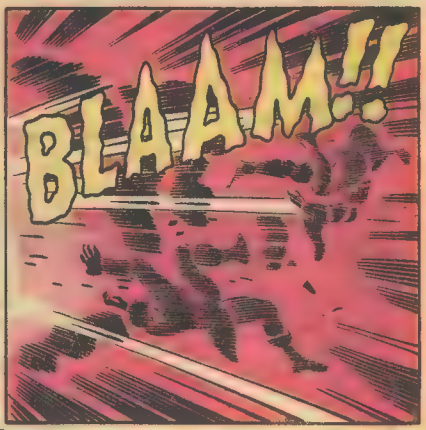

THE WEAPON DISINTEGRATES--BUT NOT BEFORE THE DEVOURING CELESTIAL FORCE IS UNLEASHED...
IKARIS! I'M CAUGHT IN THIS DEVILISH STAR-FIRE!
HELP ME! HELP ME!!


DRUIG VANISHES ALL TOO QUICKLY IN THE EXPANDING HOLOCAUST! THEN, IT FEEDS ON THE PLATFORM AND REACHES OUT FOR EVERY MATERIAL SUBSTANCE IN ITS PATH...
DRUIG IS GONE! HOW DO WE STOP THIS, WIZARD?!
W-WE CAN'T!


BUT IT'S GROWING MORE POWERFUL WITH EACH PASSING SECOND! THE FORCE IS BURSTING FROM THE CHAMBER!
IT WILL SOON DESTROY THE PYRAMID ITSELF! FLEE, IKARIS!
KRAK!

HASTEN! WE'VE GOT A CHANCE IF WE CAN REACH THE PASSAGE
THE PYRAMID IS COLLAPSING!


BLAAM!!

ALIEN IN ORIGIN AND ALL-CONSUMING IN ITS NATURE, THE *DESTRUCTIVE* FORCE TURNS THE GIANT PYRAMID INTO A MASS OF *BLAZING* ENERGY...

I'VE BEEN *INJURED*, IKARIS! LEAVE ME! *SAVE YOURSELF!*

NOT EVEN *FOOLS* DESERVE SUCH A DEATH! YOU'RE COMING WITH *ME*, SIGMAR!

SOON AFTER...

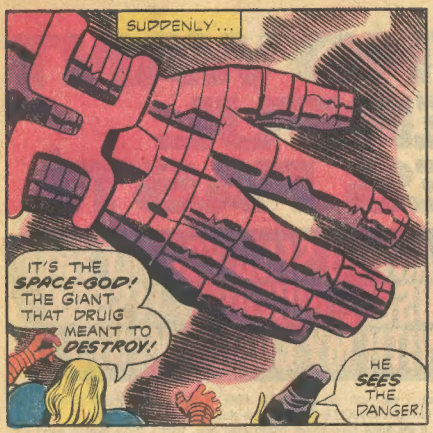
I'VE *FOUND* THE PASSAGE! KEEP CALM, AND WE SHALL *OUTRUN* THIS FIERY NIGHTMARE!

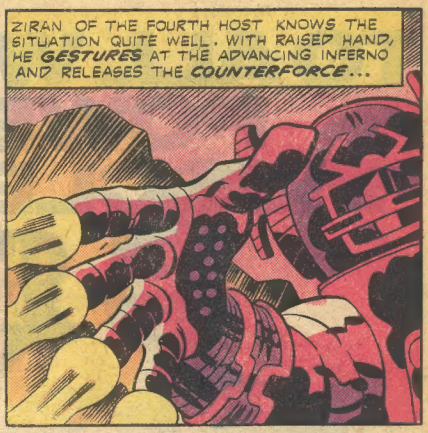
YOUR EFFORTS ARE VALIANT, BUT IN *VAIN!* THERE IS NO ESCAPE--NO ESCAPE FOR *ALL* MANKIND!

BARDOM!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

WHY DO YOU PERSIST IN STRUGGLING AGAINST FATE?/ LET US FACE IT -- AND PERISH WITH DIGNITY!
COURAGE, WIZARD! WE'VE REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE PASSAGE!
THOUGH DESTRUCTION STILL PURSUES US, WE ARE ALIVE TO MAKE A STAND AGAINST A HOSTILE FATE!
SPOKEN LIKE A WARRIOR! BUT I TELL YOU THAT THERE IS NO HOPE!
LOOK BELOW! THE LAND SEETHES AND CRACKS IN THE THROES OF DEATH!
NEVER HAVE I SEEN THE LIKES OF THIS!
THE FORCE IS CONSUMING EVERY ATOM OF THE ROCK BENEATH THE SURFACE! IN A MOMENT IT WILL BREAK THROUGH AND SPREAD ACROSS THE HORIZON!
CURSED WAS THE DAY THAT DRUIG DECIDED TO USE THIS POWER!
YOUR PROPHECY OF DOOM IS MATERIALIZING! TAMPERING WITH THE TOOLS OF THE CELESTIALS MAY HAVE BEEN MAN'S FINAL ERROR!
I TRIED TO WARN DRUIG! HAD I ONLY BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO STOP HIM!

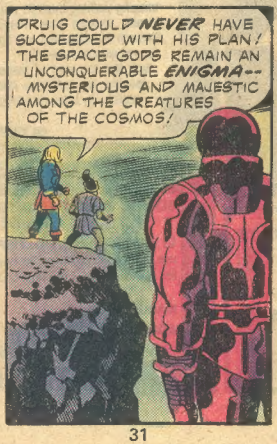

SUDDENLY...
IT'S THE SPACE-GOD! THE GIANT THAT DRUIG MEANT TO DESTROY!
HE SEES THE DANGER!

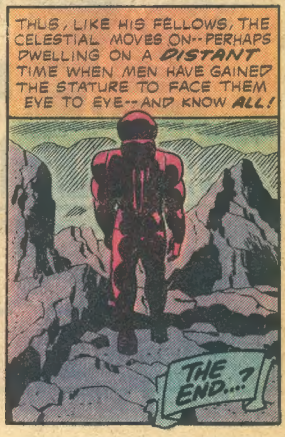

ZIRAN OF THE FOURTH HOST KNOWS THE SITUATION QUITE WELL. WITH RAISED HAND, HE GESTURES AT THE ADVANCING INFERNO AND RELEASES THE COUNTERFORCE...

POTENT BEAMS SWEEP WIDE ACROSS THE BURNING LAND, WHERE THEY TOUCH THE BLAZING STAR-FIRE, IT FADES AND DIES...

THE PROCESS IS REPEATED UNTIL THE SCARRED AND MOLTEN LANDSCAPE LIES SILENT AND SAFE FROM THE THREAT OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION...

STRANGER AND STRANGER ARE THE VARIED WAYS OF FATE! THAT TERRIBLE FORCE HAS FALLEN PREY TO ITS INTENDED VICTIM!
THE GREAT CELESTIAL HAD THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM ALL THIS TIME!


DRUIG COULD NEVER HAVE SUCCEEDED WITH HIS PLAN! THE SPACE GODS REMAIN AN UNCONQUERABLE ENIGMA-- MYSTERIOUS AND MAJESTIC AMONG THE CREATURES OF THE COSMOS!


THUS, LIKE HIS FELLOWS, THE CELESTIAL MOVES ON--PERHAPS DWELLING ON A DISTANT TIME WHEN MEN HAVE GAINED THE STATURE TO FACE THEM EYE TO EYE--AND KNOW ALL!
THE END...?

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o P. O. BOX 4943, THOUSAND OAKS, CA. 91360

Dear Jack:

THE ETERNALS #15 was a classic. The artwork was perfect. I wish the real Hulk had fought Ikaris, instead of the imitation Hulk android—but I guess the cosmic-powered colossus'll just have to do. The characterization, plotlines and action flowed well together.

Good luck on future issues!

Charles David Haskell
15 W 139th Street 4D
New York, NY 10037

Dear Jack:

In the second to last panel of THE ETERNALS #15, I noticed that Makarri and Ikaris both told Sersi to leave in no uncertain terms. I quote: "Leave, Sersi—this won't be nice." So said Ikaris. "Obey, Sersi. . ." So spake Makarri.

Until now, it seems to me that THE ETERNALS has been fair in regards to representing both sexes. The individual Eternals have been around a long time, and the women have as much (sometimes more) power as the men. And, since they are undergoing a time when they need all the power they can get, it seems a shame to display sexual bias, since Sersi's powers are certainly more than adequate.

Even Sersi herself said (and I quote): "Arrogant *male*. . .", just a few panels earlier. Why did she say *male*, instead of *fool*? Why would a female Eternal, a full equal to males throughout time, feel compelled to point out a friend's mistake by drawing attention to his sex.

The only reason is sexual bias on the writer's part. I hope this is not so, but I fear it is true.

Jay Gold
Malibu, CA

Dear Marvel:

In the cosmic-powered Hulk storyline, Jack introduced several factors that should be carefully looked into. First and foremost is the reaction of the cosmic fallout caused by the Uni-Mind. The complete control —or loss of control, as the case may be— of all machines on the globe for those few seconds could produce more than just a cosmic-controlled Hulk. Other such robots or androids could also have gone out of control just as easily as this one did, and it would be interesting to see the effects caused by the Uni-Mind in future issues of other Marvel titles.

Michael Alan
(no address given)

Good point, Mike—and one to which various erstwhile authorial types here in the Bullpen had already been addressing our attentions. Which is to say, it's not altogether unlikely that exactly what you propose might indeed occur in some unpredictable and offbeat manner in an as-yet-undetermined future issue of one of our tintinnabulatin' titles. There! Howzat for fence-straddlin'?

Dear Marvel,

I want this drawn to the attention of all Kirby readers, right now! Take a look at the Hulk's face as illustrated on the cover of THE ETERNALS #15. It's been *redrawn* by John Romita! What's the meaning of this?(?

Are you trying to tell us Jack doesn't know how to draw the Hulk? You clowns ought to be reminded that Marvel Comics was almost single-handedly created in visuals by this man! He drew the very first Hulk story ever!

It is a saddening disservice to Kirby and to those who enjoy his work, and I don't care whether you want to keep the Hulk consistent with the way he's drawn in his own title or not. You have no right to tamper with the King's art.

Pete von X
(no address given)

Dear Jack:

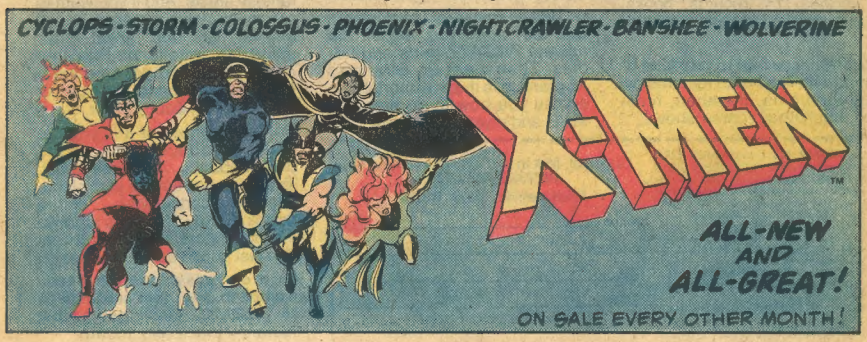
I was looking through my collection of THE ETERNALS, when I found a mistake that should earn me a no-prize!

In issue #'s 2 and 3, you have Arishem standing on *one* pylon. In issue #'s 7 and 12, you have him on *two* pylons. On page 31 of #2, it says that Arishem "lands firmly upon the pylon. He will stand upon it for fifty Earth years." In #12, it says that "they fix upon the pylons and the giant who straddles them."

If that's not worth a no-prize, I'll eat my comic book collection!

Bob A Vollrath
Box 43
Kingsville, MO 64061

***Whoa*, Bob old boy! No need to chew up all your old Marvel classics! You caught us, fair and square, in one of our far-famed Bullpen bloopers—and, somehow, we've got a feeling that no matter how hard we might try to talk ourselves out of this one, there's just no way! Besides, we wouldn't want ya to chow down on our old comics. . .after all, then you'd be eating our words, and that hardly seems fair. So to spare you all that grief, we'll eat our own words and award you one of those rare and elusive no-prizes that we've sworn to stop handing out so often. What the heck, right? That'll teach us!**



scanned by *Wizard*